

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T LISBON 4860

LIMDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: STATUS OF GONCALVES' DISMISAL

REF: (A) LISBON 4843 241632Z AUG 75

(B) LISBON 4844 241825Z AUG 75

SUMMARY: COL. PAULINO CORREIA, AF OFFICER WORKING WITH ANTUNES GROUP, TOLD DATT AUGUST 25 THAT ANI-COMMUNIST ELEMENTS WITHIN ARMED FORCES HAD OPTED FOR DISMISSAL OF GONCALVES. PRESIDENT REMAINS HESITANT BUT FABIAO IS PRESSING. GONCALVES' SUPPORTERS WITHIN MILITARY ARE ATTEMPTING TO STRING THINGS OUT IN EFFOR TO GAIN CONCESSIONS. CORREIA SUGGESTS WE DELAY FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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OF ANGOLAN AIRLIFT SUPPORT TO COINCIDE WITH TAKEOVER OF NEW GOVERN-

MENT. CORREIA STRESSED THAT VIABILITY OF NEW GOVERNMENT WILL DEPEND UPON PROMPT ECONOMIC AID. THERE IS DISAGREEMENT WITHIN ANTUNES GROUP OVER PURGE OF COMMUNIST-LINING REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

1. AT 1:00 A.M., AUGUST 25, 1975, COL PAULINO CORREIA, AF OFFICER WORKING WITH ANTUNES GROUP, TOLD DATT RESULTS OF MEETINGS THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE WITHIN THE ANTI-COMMUNIST GROUP AND WITH COSTA GOMES: HE SAID ANTI-COMMUNIST GROUP HAD DECIDED UPON FIRST COURSE OF ACTION DESCRIBED REFTEL, I.E., GONCALVES WILL BE DISMISSED.

2. CORREIA REPORTED THAT GENERAL PINHO FREIRE, CHIEF OF THE 1ST AIR REGION, PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE, AND SUPPORTER OF THE ANTUNES DOCUMENT, CALLED ON PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES TO ASK HIM WHEN HE INTENDED TO ANNOUNCE THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT. COSTA GOMES SAID THAT HE HAD TAKEN NO ACTION BECAUSE HE WAS AWAITING NAME OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT FROM FABIAO. HE DID NOT WANT TO ANNOUNCE VASCO GONCALVES' DISMISSAL WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THE NEW GOVERNMENT AT THE SAME TIME. THIS INFORMATION WAS RELAYED TO FABIAO, WHO, WITH PRESIDENTIAL CHIEF OF STAFF FERREIRA DA CUNHA, MET WITH COSTA GOMES TO CLARIFY THAT HIS CABINET WAS SELECTED AND TO ASK ABOUT THE COMMUNIQUE THAT HAD BEEN ISSUED BY RADIO, WHICH SEEMED TO SIGNIFY COSTA GOMES'S CONTINUED SUPPORT OF VASCO GONCALVES. COSTA GOMES DENIED THAT HE ISSUED THE COMMUNIQUE SAYING THAT IT WAS THE 5TH DIVISION THAT HAD DONE SO WITHOUT HIS PERMISSION, AND THAT HE WAS PREPARING TO DENOUNCE THE COMMUNIQUE WITH ONE OF HIS OWN. (COMMENT: REFTEL B REPORTED ON CRYPTIC COMMUNIQUE ALLEGEDLY ISSUED BY PRESIDENCY EARLY AUG 24. SEPTTEL REPORTED ON ANOTHER COMMUNIQUE ON SAME SUBJECT ISSUED BY J-5 SAME DAY REPUDIATING ANTUNES GROUP. CORREIA APPARENTLY MEAN THAT NEITHER COMMUNIQUE WAS AUTHORIZED BY THE PRESIDENT. ON AUGUST 25, THE PRESIDENT FORBADE FURTHER DISTRIBUTION OR COMMENT ON THE FIRST COMMUNIQUE AND SAID THE SECOND HAD BEEN ISSUED WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE. END COMMENT)

3. ANGOLA AIRLIFT: CORREIA SAID THAT THEY HAD DETERMINED THAT VASCO GONCALVES' SUPPORTERS, INCLUDING JUDAS, CONTREIRAS, RAMIRO CORREIA ET. AL., COUNTING ON THE RELUCTANCE OF THE ANTI-COMMUNISTS TO TAKE THE FINAL STEP TO PLUNGE THE NATION INTO CIVIL WAR ARE
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DOING ALL IN THEIR POWER TO DELAY THE TRANSITION OF GOVERNMENT AND TO WRING AS MANY CONCESSIONS AS POSSIBLE FROM THEIR DELAYING TACTICS. FOR THAT REASON, SOURCE SUGGESTED THAT US DELAY FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITS AIRLIFT SUPPORT IN ANGOLA TO COINCIDE WITH THE TAKEOVER OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THIS, HE EXPLAINED, WOULD PUT PRESSURE ON COSTA GOMES TO ANNOUNCE THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND WOULD LAUNCH FABIAO AS MAN OF ACTION TO SOLVE A CRISIS PROBLEM.

4.ECONOMIC AID: COL. CORREIA STRESSED VIABILITY OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL DEPEND UPON HOW QUICKLY IT CAN TURN AROUND THE DISASTROUS ECONOMIC SITUATION. HE SAID THAT ECONOMIC AID IS TALKED ABOUT CONSTANTLY IN THE FABIAO-ANTUNES-CRESPO CIRCLE. HE EXPLAINED THAT A NUMBER OF THE ANTI-COMMUNIST GROUP THINK THAT BECAUSE THEY HAVE DEFEATED VASCO GONCALVES, EUROPEAN AND USG AID PROGRAMS WILL FLOW FREELY AND QUICKLY. CORREIA SAID HE TOLD DATT THIS SO THAT USG WOULD BE PERFECTLY AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL FOR MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US AND NEW GOVERNMENT.

5. ANTUNES AND CRESPO ARE WORRIED ABOUT MAINTAINING THE LEFTIST IMAGE OF THE REVOLUTION. CORREIA SAID THERE WAS DISAGREEMENT OVER THE PURGE OF COMMUNIST-LINING REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBERS JUDAS, CONTREIRAS, AND RAMIRO CORREIA. THE ANTUNES GROUP DOES NOT WANT TO APPEAR TO BE REACTIONARY. CORREIA LIKENED THIS TO CLUTCHING A VIPER TO ONE'S BOSOM BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BE KNOWN AS A LOVER OF ANIMALS.
CARLUCCI

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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